

Internet wedding albums reach far-flung relatives

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy; Oct 21, 1998; Melissa A. Weisman;

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Thanks to the Internet, a far-easier solution to the anticlimactic, post-wedding picture wait has emerged: Web sites to which wedding photographers can transfer their images. They can be viewed simultaneously by the parents of the bride in Miami and by cousins in Boston, and everyone can order prints with a click of the mouse.

"I had people coming from California, Minnesota and Kentucky for the wedding," said Laura Tierney, who was married in October on Block Island, R.I., where she is the manager of Finn's restaurant. "I didn't want them to come all this way and not see any of the pictures. Setting up a Web site allowed everyone to see the photographs a week after the wedding, and order them directly from the photographer."

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Tierney and her husband, Robert, used a Web service called E-Prints (www.e-prints.com), which allows photographers and newlyweds to display pictures on private Web pages. Wedding guests receive a password so that only they can view the images.

E-Prints, one of at least three similar services on the Web, was founded by Mike and Abe Dane, brothers who develop Web sites, after Abe and his bride, Jan Faust, returned from a honeymoon last year and felt overwhelmed by the logistics of distributing their wedding pictures.

"With Jan's parents in Oregon, mine in Massachusetts and our friends living all over the world, it seemed impossible to get it together," Dane said. "We had already paid the photographer \$1,000 up front, and we didn't have thousands more to spare on extra prints." What's more, the photographer warned that they

would be charged \$3,600 if the proofs were lost or damaged.

So the Dane brothers set up a web site.

"At a wedding, you have this once-in-a-lifetime juxtaposition of people, and then everyone goes their separate ways," Dane said. "Setting up a Web site like this allows people to recollect and extend their experiences of that day. That's why we also have a bulletin board, so that people can leave messages and keep in touch long after the event."

At another, Memories Online (www.memoriesonline.com), clients can personalize their album by clicking the computer mouse to select background color, viewing order of pictures and to incorporate music, sound effects, title the album and write captions.

The Web sites require wedding photographers to register with them before transferring their images. Photographers benefit by attracting new clients.

"Weddings we shoot on Saturday are on the Internet the following Thursday," said Gary Fong, an L.A. wedding photographer who started Storybook Weddings (www.storybookweddings.com).

Another wedding shutterbug, Wendy Saunders, founded E-Wedding (www.e-wedding.com). Like others, she has discovered that the Internet is a way of transcending geographical boundaries for friends and family members of the betrothed.

One client of E-Wedding, Whit Allen, a managing director for Lucent Technologies in Miami Beach, put his engagement picture on the site and plans to add the images from the wedding. He even logged on from a hotel room in Venezuela while traveling for business and added information to his pages.

Credit: N.Y. Times News Service

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WIRED WEDDING ALBUMS INTERNET SPEEDS THE PROCESS OF PICKING AND DISTRIBUTING THOSE NUPTIAL PHOTOS.

Sun Sentinel; Fort Lauderdale; Apr 29, 1998; MELISSA A. WEISMAN *The New York Times*;

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